

Appl. No. 09/540,947

Docket No. MIT-057AUS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

- 1 1. (~~Original~~Currently Amended) a ~~A~~ conferencing system comprising:
- 2 (a) a plurality of participants;
- 3 (ba) a like plurality of facilitator agents, each of said facilitator agents associated with a
- 4 corresponding one of said plurality of participants, each said plurality of facilitator agents
- 5 including.
- 6 (1) means for monitoring communication of a participant in the conferencing system;
- 7 (2) means for comparing the communication of the participant to a predetermined set
- 8 of communication passages; and
- 9 (3) means for providing a prompt to a participant in the conferencing system in
- 10 response to the means for comparing finding a match between the communication
- 11 of a participant and one of the predetermined set of communication passages; and
- 12 (cb) a like plurality of social agents each of said social agents associated with a corresponding
- 13 one of said plurality of participants, each of said social agents including.
- 14 (1) means for monitoring relevant components of a design environment and
- 15 suggesting appropriate actions to be taken by a participant; and
- 16 (de) means for learning how to effectively represent each individual of a plurality of
- 17 individuals in the design environment.

- 1 2. (Original) The conferencing system of Claim 1 wherein said means for comparing the
- 2 communication of the participant to a predetermined set of communication passages includes
- 3 means for learning communication passages by being presented with one or more situation-
- 4 action pairs which are classified in a rule-base such that said facilitator agent can proactively
- 5 respond to future situations without user intervention.

- 1 3. (Original) The conferencing system of Claim 1 wherein said means for monitoring relevant
- 2 components of a design environment and suggesting appropriate actions to be taken by a

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3 participant includes means for monitoring and suggesting by being presented with one or more
4 situation-action pairs which are classified in a rule-base such that said social agent can
5 proactively respond to future situations without user intervention.

1 4. (Original) The conferencing system of Claim 1 wherein said social agents express an emotion
2 of a participant.

1 5. (Original) The conferencing system of Claim 1 wherein said facilitator agents suggests a
2 change of forum in response to a particular agenda item.

1 6. (Cancel)

1 7. (Currently Amended) The ~~facilitator-agent~~system of Claim 6-1 wherein said facilitator agent
2 further ~~comprising~~comprises means for evolving a reaction with the use of the conferencing
3 system.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The ~~system of Claim 1~~ wherein said facilitator agent of Claim 6 further
2 ~~comprises~~comprising:
3 means for coupling to a control mechanism; and
4 means for establishing an appropriate control mechanism for a given forum setting.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The ~~system of Claim 1~~ wherein said facilitator agent of Claim 6 further
2 ~~comprises~~comprising means for building a rapport with a conferring participant through an
3 interface technique that builds trust between the participant and the agent.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The ~~system of Claim 1~~ wherein said facilitator agent of Claim 6
2 further ~~comprising~~comprises:
3 means for presenting a choice to a participant; and
4 means for accepting a decision from the participant.

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- 1 11. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein said facilitator agent of Claim 6
2 further ~~comprising~~ comprises means for presenting a caricature representation that informs the
3 user of its current process state.
- 1 12. (Currently Amended) The facilitator-agent system of Claim 11 wherein the process state
2 corresponds to one of thinking, suggesting, gratified, disappointed, or confused.
- 1 13. (Currently Amended) The facilitator-agent system of Claim 11 further comprising emotion
2 representing means for providing a suggestion in response to a decision and for showing
3 expressions of sadness or happiness dependent upon the reaction of the participant.
- 1 14. (Currently Amended) The facilitator-agent system of Claim 11 further comprising means for
2 building thresholds for decisions that may be taken without user intervention.
- 1 15. (Currently Amended) The facilitator-agent system of Claim 11 further comprising means for
2 encoding user preferences for agent autonomy such that said agent includes an indication of what
3 decisions the participant with which the agent is associated is willing to delegate to the agent.
- 1 16. (Currently Amended) The facilitator-agent system of Claim 11 wherein the agent's decisions
2 on process interventions are based on the following aspects of the agent environment:
3 (a) a current topic's recommendation list;
4 (b) threshold levels indicating user preferences;
5 (c) an averaged record of the participation of each participant in a negotiation process; and
6 (d) a complete conversation model of an ongoing negotiation.
- 1 17. (Currently Amended) The facilitator-agent system of Claim 11 further comprising:
2 means for generating a vector representing the averages of the on-line time consumed by
3 each participant in a forum;
4 means for generating a vector representing the amount of recommendations generated
5 regarding a specific intent;

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6 means for generating a vector representing the average time a participant in a forum waits
7 before given the right to speak; and
8 means for generating a vector representing the relevance of a topic to each participant in
9 a forum.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The ~~facilitator-agent~~system of Claim 17 wherein a weight is assigned
2 to each of the vectors and the elements are summed.:

1 19. (Currently Amended) The ~~facilitator-agent~~system of Claim 18 wherein the weights are
2 adjustable by a user.

1 20. (Currently Amended) The ~~facilitator-agent~~system of Claim 6 wherein the facilitator agent
2 distinguishes between: (1) brainstorming/free control strategy, (2) a lecture control strategy; and
3 (3) a chairperson control strategy.:

1 21. (Cancel)

1 22. (Currently Amended) The ~~system of Claim 1 wherein said social agent of Claim 21 further~~
2 ~~comprising~~comprises:

3 means for becoming more familiar with a participant with which the agent is associated;

4 means for cooperating with the agents of other participants in the conferencing system to
5 decide upon an appropriate meeting control scheme; and

6 means for reaching a consensus on a meeting process intervention.

Claims 23 – 51 Cancelled